the Link

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

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Student forces exam change with petition

by Scott McCulloch

A Concordia student who was given the run-around for two weeks by university administrators, has finally succeeded in having his overburdened exam schedule changed.

First year biology major Tony Couto was scheduled to have four exams in three days. After being shuffled from department to department, Couto took the matter into his own hands by organizing a petition to have one exam rescheduled. **Last Tuesday, the university agreed to delay one of his exams for eight days.**

"When I spoke to the examinations office, they wouldn't do anything," he said. "During the tentative posting of exams they said 'sorry we can't do anything and we probably won't do anything'."

Couto was told there was no possibility of a change in dates.

Director of examinations Lynne Campbell said her office could not help Couto because although he had a bad exam schedule, it did not constitute a conflict, so she could not make any changes.

"If a student has three exams back to back, one in the evening, another in the morning after and then one in the afternoon for example, then it is a conflict," said Campbell.

According to university rules, a student can have an exam date changed if it falls on their day of worship. For example, orthodox Jews can switch a Saturday exam to Sunday. Compassionate reasons are also grounds: hospitalization or a death in the family could allow a student to write an exam at a later date.

Couto tried several other departments before starting the petition.

"I saw Concordia's legal advisor, he said nothing under school law would help," Couto said.

He then approached Douglas Insleay, assistant to the Dean of Students for legal services. Couto said he was told that his case didn't merit any legal action and he was given the address of the ombudsperson's office.

Concordia ombudsperson Suzanne Belson told him there was nothing she could do for him.

"To be fair to everybody is really hard," said Belson. "There is a policy saying a student cannot have three exams within a 24 hour period."

Couto wasn't satisfied with the run-around he was getting. In a last ditch effort, he organized the petition and brought it to Edward Maly, chair of the biology department.

Maly said that when he first phoned Campbell to propose the exam change, he was told it would be impossible to alter the schedule. He said that only after the exam office was pressured, did Cambell ask him to collect a list of names of students who would agre to a date change for the ecology 250 exam, which as it stood, would have been Couto's third in two days.

Last Tuesday, he collected the names and submitted them to the director of examinations who finally set a second exam scheduled eight days after the first.

"I agreed to set a second final exam on the 27th (originally), but I guess the bottom line is people bend when pressured," said Maly.

Couto said he was satisfied with Campbell's decision but he still had reservations about university administrators.

"You can complain, but they still sort of shun it off," he said.

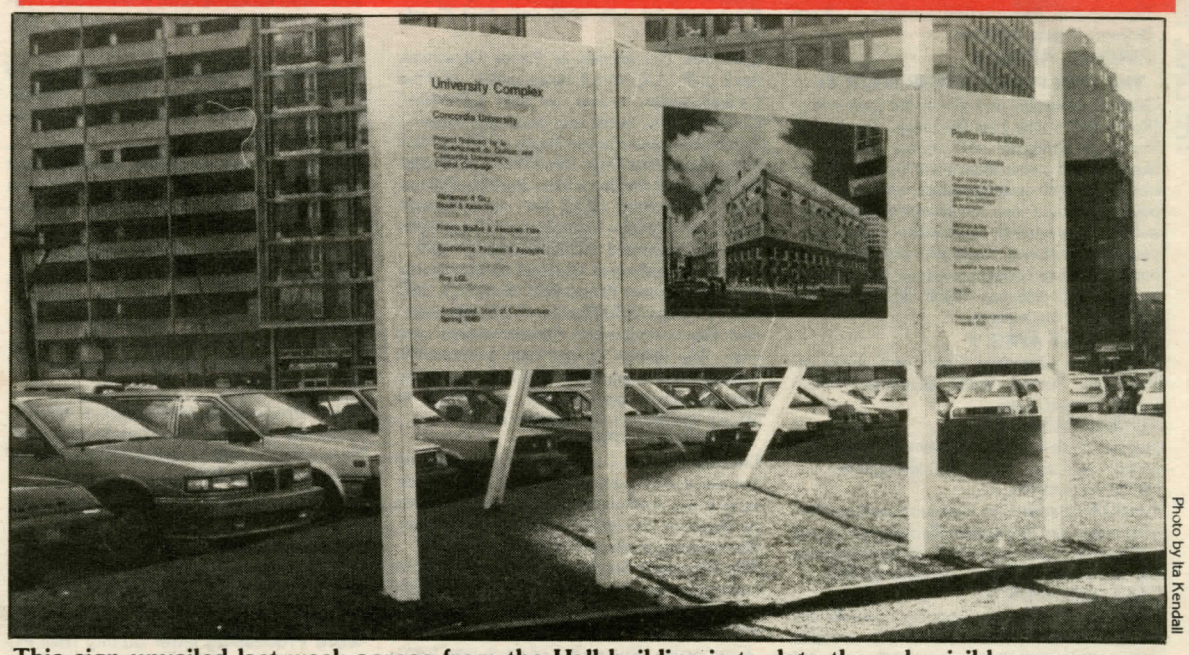


Photo by Ita Kendall

This sign unveiled last week across from the Hall building is to date the only visible progress on Concordia's $33 million library project.

Summer job search begins

Good news, bad news for students

by Heidi Modro

Concordia students may have an easier time finding summer jobs this year but the news isn't all good.

National unemployment statistics for students seeking summer employment have decreased over the past past three years. In 1984 the unemployment rate for students returning to school in September was 14.1 percent. By 1987 the rate had decreased to 11.9 percent and the trend will probably continue this year.

"It should be be easier for students to get jobs because unemployment rates have decreased over the past year," said Marc Foley, coordinator of the federal government's student summer employment program, Challenge '88. "For university students it should be even easier because the summer unemployment rate for post-secondary students is well below ten percent."

Since 1984, the Challenge program's budget has decreased significantly from $201 million in 1984 to $180 million in 1987.

"Youth unemployment has gone down," says federal Youth Minister Jean Charest, "so it would be logical that the level of funding not remain the same."

Foley believes the reduced funding won't hurt students, saying, "In 1980, the government gave out $100 million for summer youth employment programs. In 1984 it went up to $201 million. Now funding is at $180 million. A lot of jobs can still be created with that amount."

But Quebec's largest student organisation is skeptical about the government's overly optimistic job forecasts.

"Right now it's true that there are better chances of finding work than in 1984-85," said Jean Pierre Paquette, Secretary General of l'Association Nationale des Etudiantes et Etudiants du Quebec. "Those were years of economic crisis. The job market has improved since then. But the quality of the jobs has decreased. Salaries are comparatively lower and students are being called in more for part-time work."

He said the statistics that should be examined are not artificial summer employment rates but rather the fact that seventy per cent of all full-time students are forced to work during the school year.

"If students had really great jobs during the summer there would be no need for them to work during school," said Paquette. "In some way or another they have to compensate for the money they couldn't earn during the summer because of the decreasing wages."

Paquette said the federal statistics are misleading, explaining, "The federal government considers that any student who has worked at least for one day during the summer doesn't rank among the unemployed. So that means that any student who has gotten a job for a day or two doing menial labour has been employed during the summer. It's pretty much a political scheme that is deceiving."

CUSA co-president Andrew Madsen, however, is cautiously optimistic about students' summer job prospects.

"Granted, there are a lot of slave-labour minimum wage type jobs," he said, "but there are also well-paying jobs out there. If I didn't already have a job I'd be pretty optimistic about finding one."

In 1984 CUSA opened their own student job bank as an alternative to the Federal Student Employment Centre on Campus, which has often been criticized as bureaucratic and unresponsive to the needs of the majority of students. The service has been so successful that CUSA plans on expanding the service over the summer and computerizing it.

"Right now, we are able to provide jobs for students who want anything from a job at McDonalds to a computer specialist position," said Madsen.

SDI poses a byte of danger

by Juliette Patterson

The possibility of a computer error in Ronald Reagan's Star Wars (SDI) program could lead to world armageddon, according to a former member of a former member of an SDI advisory panel.

Queen's University Computer Science professor David Parnas told a Concordia audience two weeks ago that it would be impossible to "try Star Wars to see if it works."

"Testing in peacetime could not reveal battle errors because of the lack of information on elusive targets such as Russian warheads," said Parnas, who resigned from the SDI advisory panel after two months saying the project was unfeasible and dangerous.

"I want you to think about this program that is estimated to have 10 million lines," he told a large Concordia audience. "You have ten minutes to debug it, or the world comes to an end".

If ballistic missiles were to be installed in space in a SDI plan, it would be a computer's job to decide whether a suspicious object was a warhead or not.

Parnas said that because computer software is based on discontinuous functions which have a low tolerance for mistakes, a small error will cause a programme to crash while an important mistake won't.

"For this reason programmes must be tested and corrected bfore they can be put in commercial use," said Parnas.

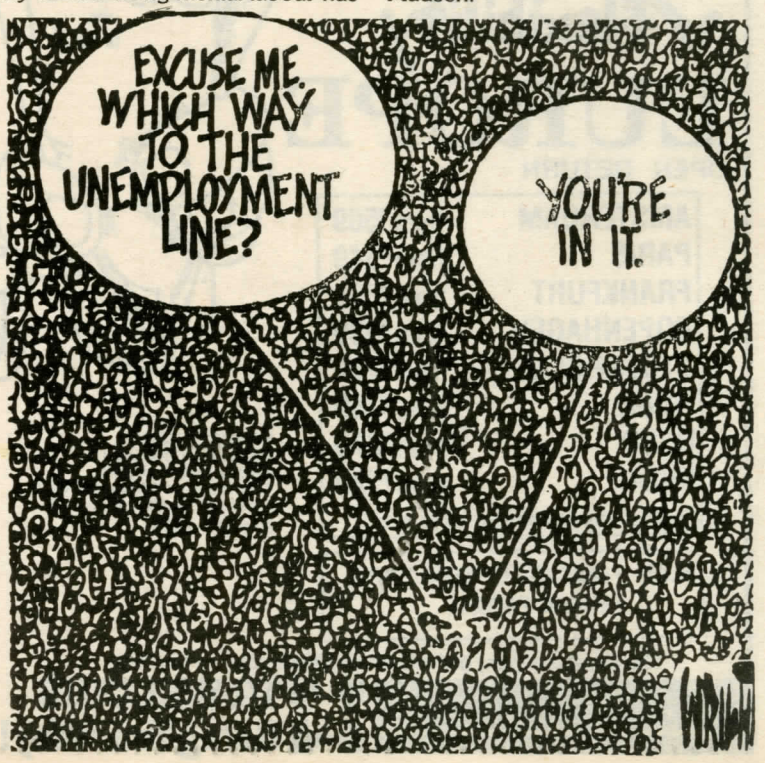
He said that because of the limited opportunities for realistic testing, the pentagon will not trust the (SDI) system.

"The Americans will make decisions as if the system wasn't there, and the Russians will compensate by building more missiles. The pentagon will shout 'Missile gap!' causing an acceleration of the arms race."

He suggested that many of those who work for SDI are manipulative scientists and politicians who have joined the cause out of self-interest. "That was my first reason for resigning—before I thought out all the other issues, it became clear to me that nobody believed in it."

"The US government is making a deliberate effort to mislead the public."

He cited the pesident of California Institute of Technology who once said that the Strategic Defence Initiative was 'spherically ridiculous', because from whatever angle you look at it, it doesn't make any sense.



Agenda

Use the Agenda to publicise any Concordia-related event. Drop off your info at our offices at Sir George(H-649) or mail it in, indicating Agenda on the envelope. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issues, and 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday issues.

THURSDAY APRIL 7

Mayben Poirer on French and English Elites in Canada, Lonergan College, 7302 Sherbrooke W, 4 pm, FREE info 848-2280.

Piano Recital, original compositions by Jan Jarczyk, FREE, Loyola Chapel, 8 pm. info 848-4706.

Narcolepsy Association meeting- 7 - 9 pm, Belmore House, 848-3588.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

THE LINK PUBLICATION SOCIETY

General Assembly at 3 pm in *the Link* office (Room 649 in the Hall Building). *The Link's* Board of Directors will review *the Link's* finances and a new Board will be elected for next year. All undergraduate students who pay the student levy are shareholders in the autonomous student corporation and are encouraged to attend. *The Link's* staff will be on hand to answer questions about the paper's content and policies. FREE BEER will be served after the meeting.

SATURDAY APRIL 9

Concordia Chamber Choir with works by Bruckner, Purcell, Smail, Sweelinck, FREE Loyola Chapel, 8 pm.

SUNDAY APRIL 10

Harpos Cafe 8 - 11:30 pm, Belmore House, folk music, open stage, cofee, tea, all welcome.

MONDAY APRIL 11

Panel Discussion on Canadian Television Programming and Production Techniques, Bryan 209, Loyola Campus, 4:15 - 5:30, sponsored by the Departmen of Communication Studies.

TUESDAY APRIL 12

Atelier de Musique Ancienne of Concordia and the Universite de Montreal presents a FREE concert of English Renaissance music, works of Tallis, Byrd, Holborne, Dowland and others. 8 pm, Faculte de Musique, Universite de Montreal, B-421, 200 Vincent d'Indy. info 848-4706.

Piano Recital of works by Beethoven, Chopin, Liszt, Albeniz and Ravel, 8 pm, Loyola Chapel, FREE.

GENERAL

FREE BEER

At *the Link's* Annual General Assembly. Friday, April 8 (tomorrow) at 3:00 in room 649 of the Hall building. EVERYONE WELCOME.

Weekly Meetings of Concordia Students against Apartheid every monday night, 6 pm. P-Annex, 2020 Mackay, rm 203. Everyone welcome.

Practice Room with piano available/Record lending library. come to AD 121 Loyola, Monday-Friday, 11am - 3pm. Info: 848-3510. Sponsored by the Dean of Students Office.

Medrie McPhee: The Urban Landscape, and Gerard Garneau: drawings and drypoints, at the Concordia Art Gallery, Hall Mezzanine.Always FREE. Vernissage Friday Mar 25, 7:30 pm.

Free Theatre at Loyola- Michel Tremblay's Les Belles Soeurs, April 7, 8pm, April 8, 8pm, April 9, 1 and 7 pm, FREE, limited seating, Chameleon Studio, 7141 Sherbrookee W. info:848-4747.

More Free Theatre, at the National Theatre School, April 5 - 9,8 pm, 1182 St-Laurent. L'Asile de la purete, by Claude Gauvreau, a world premiere.FREE, and the theatre holds 700.

Applied Social Science Elections: Wednesday, April 13 in the Applied Social Sciences Lounge. For more information, call 848-2260.

IBA/Berlin: Inteernational Architechture Exhibition, Centre de design de l'UQAM, 200 Sherbrooke W, salle 4005, until April 17. info 282-3395.

Episodes Nocturnes et Pieces Detachees, April 12 & 13, Centre Calixa-Lavallee, 3819 rue Calixa-Lavallee, (couer du parc Lafontaine) Choreography, music and visual performance. Janet Oxley and Maryse Poulin of Concordia's Inter-related Arts Dept. Info 279-9725/522-3580.

Religion and the Black Man, April 15, 7:30 pm, 2121 Old Orchard, NDG, Rev. James Bennett speaks, & short film "Allan Boesak-Choosing for Justice" presenteed. ACCESS, info 482-8802.

LGFC co-ordinator elections (& brainstorming fer next year) Friday April 15 6 pm, LGFC office P-Annex 2020 Mackay, P-102. Meeting to elect new co-ordinators, discus events for next year, Any lesbian or gay man interested in helping out, running for co-ordinator, or joining steering committee/collective is URGED to attend. 848-7474 (leave message for LGFC)

WOMEN'S LISTINGS

Lesbian Studies Coalition of Concordia will be holding weekly discussion/support/action sessions every Wednesday at 4 p.m. at the Simone de Beauvoir lounge(2170 Bishop, downstairs). New women, students and faculty, welcome!

The Women's Studies Student Association is looking for new members. All Women's Studies students welcome. Meeetings each Tuesday, 2 pm MU-301-1.info 848-7449.

Concordia Women's Collective new members welcome. We meet fridays at 1:30 pm, 2020 Mackay, rm 202. If you want to join or have ideas call 848-7411 and leave a message, or call the Women's centre 848-7431.

A Question of Gender- Women's FForum at Concordia University, on C.A.N.A.L., CFTU Channel 29, Cable 23. info call 848-3440. New Reproductive Technologies, Women's Spirituality and Bulemia, Racism and Feminism, March 22-April 10.

Marianne Ainley on Women in the Scientific Community: Model, April 12, Simone de Beauvoir Institute. Info 2370, or 481-9927/6139.

Nadia Ghalen author of Exil, Les jardins de cristal, and L'oiseau de fer, speaking on Algerian women in general, their traditions and of modernism. 7 pm, April 11, Simone de Beauvoir Institute.

Classified

Classified rates: 20 cents per word for Concordia students, 25 cents per word for others. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday for Tuesday issues, and 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday issues. Drop off ad and payment in rm. H-649

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Modelling: Female model needed from April 27-30. Minimum height 5'9". $100/day. call Philip 466-3226.

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HELP WANTED

The hypnosis laboratory of Concordia University is looking for participants for studies involving memory, imagery and hypnosis. Those interested should contact the laboratory Monday 4:00-6:00 or Tuesday 1:00-3:30, at 848-2213. Volunteers will be paid for their participation.

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SUMMER JOB: G.M. Moving and Storage is looking for full and part-time helpers and packers. Pay is $7/hr with the possibility of making up to $4000 for the summer. Busy time is between May 15 and July 15, with July and Aug. being more part-time. The fact that the job has very flexible hours(your choice) and that it can continue into fall semester make it an ideal job for students. Call and register now at 337-7899.

Strong person wanted to care for man with Parkinson's disease. Days. Nights. Call 731-0111 after 10 am.

Part-time position: Entertainment programmer for CUSACORPS Management Limited. Open to all Concordia students. Bring your resumes to the Loyola Campus Centre (Information desk) Deadline April 8th. CUSACORPS is an equal opportunity employer.

Babysitter needed May 2 - July 15, full-time. Please call Helena 848-7761 (day) or 366-8036 (evenings).

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Salvadoran woman denied admission

Racism charged at McGill

Montreal (CUP)—A Salvadoran woman is accusing McGill's admissions department of racism after allegedly being denied an entrance application form last month.

In a letter sent to McGill's ombudsman the day after the incident, Celina Hasbun said she was told by admissions officers that she had neither high enough marks nor enough English to bother applying for a social work program. She is, meanwhile, a graduate of an English high school in Belize and has completed one year of study at South Western University in Louisiana.

Hasbun said that the administration officials also could not find transcripts she had sent in with an application to be regular student last year. Hasbun needed the marks from them in order to fill out applications to Concordia for admittance next year.

The half-hour encounter brought her close to tears, she said.

Hasbun, who is also president of an aid group for Salvadoran women, had been encouraged to re-apply for a Bachelor of Science Work programme as a mature student by Social Work professor Elizabeth Urtnowski. A professional degree in the field would widen her career choices, she was told.

Although Hasbun has spoken to neither the ombudsman nor administration officials since the incident, her letter, sent to both offices, prompted two cursory investigations. Admissions director Mariela Johansen showed the letter to her staff, but said that no one could remember speaking with Hasbun or telling anyone that they could not have a form. No further action could be taken as Hasbun did not provide the name of the official to whom she spoke.

"There may have been some kind of misunderstanding ," she explained, "At that time people are very conscious of deadlines."

Admissions officer Kathy Mayhew added that she "couldn't see anyone turning down a student just like that. Officers often recommend upgrading in the case of low marks." She also suggested that Hasbun's previous university experience would prevent her from being admitted as anything but a transfer student.

Although admissions problems are dealt with by an independant appeal board, Ombudman Professor Annette Werk said she did make sure admissions officials had received a copy of the letter.

"They were very concerned and really investigated the matter," she said, adding that she knew of no other problems of racism at the admissions office.

"I think that it's very unfortunate but isolated incident. We should be concious of it... but sometimes people ask questions without meaning to be officious. My experience with admissions has been very positive."

Professor Urtnowski also visited the admissions office after learning of the incident. She obtained a set of application forms for Hasbun, who however, has decided not to apply to McGill.

"I don't want anything to do with McGill," she said. "I wouldn't feel comfortable there."

Hasbun also said that she had heard other stories of racism at McGill from her friends.

This incident highlights widespread concern that McGill has not made itself accessible enough to minority groups.

"The issue here could be that people from other cultures don't answer questions the way that we're used to," Urtonowski said, responding to suggestions that admissions officials may just have asked Hasbun some standard questions to decide what form she would be given.

"'McGill has turned us off'—I've heard it more than once from minority and international student," she added.

Urtnowski was particularly concerned with the effect such incidents would have on a community already lacking enough qualified minority social workers.

David Allper, a friend of Hasbun's who encouraged her to write the letter of protest, feels that many questions remain unanswered by admissions officials.

"It sounds obvious that there was a misunderstanding, but the treatment Celina received was unacceptable," he said. "If it wasn't racism, it was obviously a tremendous amount of insensitivity that was shown."

Alper went on to suggest that if the "welcome mat is taken away from the admissions' office" students wouldn't feel comforatble at the university from day one.

"This is proof that McGill is still a very elitist university from day one.

Hasbun is taking courses at Concordia this year as an independant student. Although admissions officers told her that a year at Concordia as a regualr student could help her into McGill next year, she has decided to remain at Concordia.

Concordia offers no Bachelor of Social Work programme.

Student workers double-crossed

Montreal (CUP)—McGill students working part time in residence cafeterias were forced to take a large pay cut as a result of a sweetheart deal between the university and the physical plant workers union.

The deal - proposed by the university and accepted by the union in December - gives full-time workers a pay raise and allows McGill to spend less on salaries.

But it means a 30 per cent pay cut for McGill students who work on a casual basis at the three McGill residences.

"The pay cut in the second semester really hurt," said Angela Greenwell, who quit her job after the contract was signed.

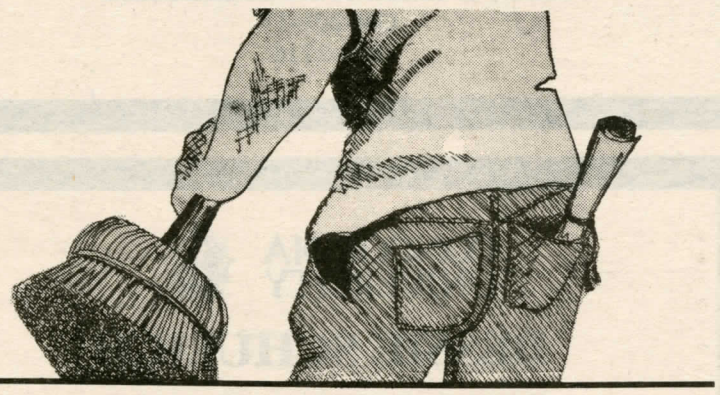
"Many casuals only work five or six hours a week so our wages were pretty small to begin with. No one believed this sort of thing would happen. The union certainly didn't protect us on this one," she said.

Casual workers say they were not told of the meeting where the union voted to accept the contract, and never had the terms of the new contract explained to them.

As a result, only a handful of casual workers attended the meeting where the vote was taken.

"The people who did this tried to keep us in the dark," Greenwell said. "It was never explained to us that we would be taking a cut. Had we known what was being discussed, we would have gone."

Union spokesperson Michel Desrosiers said the meeting was well advertised, and notices were posted around the workplace.



Desrosiers said the new contract does benefit the full-time employees at the expense of the casuals. "It was in the interests of full-timers to have the casual workers' wages reduced.

"They did not actually take a pay cut." Desrosiers said, "management simply re-hired them at a new rate. The new rate was reduced to give more benefits to full-time workers."

The union executive was originally against the idea of cutting the wages of the casual workers. But according to Desrosiers, "the full-time workers said they were against going on strike on behalf of the casuals."

"In the past, there have been strikes and the casuals did very little to help the membership. The membership decided for the cuts and this is a democracy and we have to do what the membership wishes."

Casuals and full-time workers had been paid acording to the principle of 'equal pay for equal work' since the union was established, Desrosiers said.

"Equal pay for equal work looks nice in principle, but in the real world it just doesn't happen. Casuals have no rights in some places," he said.

Desrosiers said the casuals were partly to blame for not opposing the pay cut. "Part-time students here don't care at all about their working conditions. Only one person spoke against the pay reductions, and he was a full-time employee. If more casuals had been at the meeting, it would have been different. They just never show up at these things."

Some casuals see things differently. One employee who requested anonymity said, "The idea that casuals could have defeated full-time workers in a vote is ridiculous. Full-time workers must outnumber us four or five to one.

"You know it's a sad state of affairs when a trade union is fighting to have 'equal pay for equal work' wiped out of an existing contract."

News Briefs

Flasher loose at U of T

Toronto (CUP)—Demands for tighter security at the University of Toronto's Hart House are being stepped up after a man exhibited himself several times in the women's locker room.

An unconfirmed report said the Toronto Metro Police arrested the suspect, but charges against him were dropped because "he wasn't caught in the act.

"We're in the process of installing a new security system, that will include some kind of access code needed to get into the locker room. Until then, we've posted a guard there for 24 hours a day," Sandy Henderson, Director of Recreational Athletics at Hart House.

"But you've got to look at the security of the guard too," Henderson continued. "If a woman is posted we have to be worried about her safety. And besides, if someone really wants to do something—like rape—they're going to do it. It's just a matter of cutting down on the chances of it happening."

Baljit Banga, Coordinator of the Women's Centre, disagreed with that logic. "It's absurd that they would use something like that as an excuse. They have to protect the women that use that locker room," she said.

She also criticized security for questioning all black men entering the building because the man apprehended was black. "It's extremely racist. If they did their job properly and found the person responsible instead of stopping men at random it would be a lot fairer."

This was not the first incident of a male flasher entering the woman's locker room at Hart House. In July another man was reported exhibiting himself.

Poster enrages students

Ottawa (CUP)—Sexist posters on Carleton University's campus enraged students' association councillors and forced one of the executive to admit he used "poor judgement" in approving them.

The poster in question contains passages from a book it advertises, called *A Gentleman' s Guide to the Inflated Mistress*.

The poster includes graphics of a man on a date with an inflated doll, and statements like how a relationship with a doll avoids the dangers of AIDS. It advertised a reading at Carleton by one of the book's authors, Edward Zwolinski.

"This is an appalling piece of work. It's a piece of hate propaganda against women," said Lisa Fishbayn, a students' association representative and member of the campus women's centre.

Both the text and cartoon graphics on the poster degrade women, she added.

The poster was approved by the association's VP administration. "I accept full responsibilty...it was my fault," said Raphael da Silva. He admitted that he didn't pay close attention to the posters when he was stamping them.

The controversy follows another incident where a Carleton fraternity faced losing any priveleges it enjoyed on the university's campus because one of the posters portrayed a snowman fondling a bikini-clad woman.

Campus pirates worried

Toronto (CUP)—Flash! The RCMP is raiding the University of Toronto looking for illegally copied software. Or are they?

So went the rumours circulating on the U of T campus last week, but apparently rumours are all they are.

"That's not right," said U of T police officer Darcy Foran when asked about the story. "There's nothing to it. I don't know where it got started."

Mounties armed with search warrants were said to have been visiting various academic departments, charging faculty and staff found with illegal copies of copyrighted software.

The chair of metallurgy and materials science was said to have told someone that six people in his department had been charged with copyright violations, but his secretary denied the story, saying the RCMP had never been there. "We think it's a hoax," she said.

Engineering Computer Facilty Director Jack Gorrie agreed. "Either we've got a couple of loons running around in trench coats pretending to be Mounties," he said, or the rumours are false.

Similar stories have been reported at other Ontario universities. According to a story in Wilfrid Laurier University's student newspaper, similar rumours circulated at Laurier and Guleph, but no RCMP raids actually took place.

"The RCMP are not searching," Gorrie said. "They have not done this in any university in Canada."

But searches like this could be possible once amendments to the federal copyright legislation, now before the Commons, become law. The new law would clarify computer software as something subject to copyright law, and raise the maximum penalty for an offence to ten years in prison, Gorrie said. "It's considered a very serious offence." she said.

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continued from page 2

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BIOLOGY STUDENTS: do you think that dissection labs promote the unnecessary use of animals? Do you participate in labs only because they are manditory/ If you would be interested that alternative methods be available in the future, please contact C.A.R.A.(Concordia Animal Rights Association) Wendy 336-9752 or Shawn: 481-1040. Leave message.

LOST/FOUND

Lost/Found ads in the Link are FREE.

Lost in the snow storm- silver brooch with fake diamonds and pearls("old lady" style) on Loyola Campus, GREAT sentimental value—REWARD 276-8217.

Found-Charles Dickens paperback Oliver Twist, on 4th floor near vending Machines. 483-5063.

LOST! Many things that the mind cannot tell. Many marbles mislaid. Much stuff that cannot be said. All these and more. Please return to the Scruples Dep't, 007 Jellybean Way, Washington DC, USA.

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

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Lizanne Winser
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Coordinator for Undergraduate Student Affairs
Faculty of Commerce and Administration
GM-201-19
848-2722

CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY

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Letters

Sexual harasser loose at Concordia

I was very upset when I read in *the Thursday Report* in the article "Complaints about Sexual Harassment" that a repeat offender Professor P. (for pervert) was accused of sexual harassment. His behaviour is unacceptable. He knows that the majority of female students he harasses will not say anything because they are afraid that they will lose marks in his class so they are passive about the whole thing.

I would recommend the following:

1. We should see to it that the student be allowed to deregister from that course right up to the final exam.
2. That our student association have a confidential file about all such incidents.
3. That if the student feels uncomfortable about the publicity of the incident we should help the student relocate to another university in Canada and help pay some of her moving and additional fees.
4. I feel the faculty association (CUFA) should force prof. P. to resign at the end of this semester, otherwise if they are not against prof. P. I will assume they are with him. Prof. P.'s behaviour is destroying our extremely important teacher/student relationship of trust, guidance and sometimes support. CUFA should provide help for these harassers since many of them do not realize what they are doing is wrong.
5. Since the Ombudsperson is powerless, I plead with this female student and other students to press charges no matter how much it hurts them. It will prevent prof. P. and others like him from harassing again. In this particular case it would be very easy to charge prof. P. since he has not denied it because he said he felt that women invite his attention.

He "feels that women invite his attention by dressing in a provocative way. Apart from the fact that the complainants' own description of their clothing did not sound provocative at all, the idea that 'sexy' clothing gives people license to harass those who wear it is wrong.." (*the Thursday Report*, Jan. 28, 1988, page 5)

In addition to this information, you also have another victim to add to your case.

6. In addition CUSA should set money aside for all the legal expences for the victim.

It is really sad when the unemployment rate is so high and companies are laying off hundreds of people including professionals but a teacher cannot be forced to resign or be fired.

I hope sincerely that you print this letter and excuse my anonymity because I fear the repercussions this may have on me.

Student who asked to remain anonymous

More politics of Middle East food

to the editors

Contrary to Prof. Robinson's observations (*the Link*, March 22), food items such as couscous, falafel or ~~tehina~~ do not lose their intrinsic Arab designation, merely because they are widely eaten by others.

Sauerbrafen does not transform into English food, on account of it being served at Simpson's on the Strand, neither is pizza miraculously changed into Chinese food on the basis of its extensive acceptibility in Shanghai.

Arabs of Jewish religious communion or Arab Jews or Jews who, for millennia, lived in Arab lands not only communicate in Arab as their own language but they also — as a natural concomitant — dine on the same food items as do all other Arabs. Insofar as these food items are within the purview of Orthodox-Jewish dietary regulations, i.e. of "câcher" authorisation, these foods are as much "Jewish" as they are "Moslem" or "Christian": which in no way alters the Arab qualification.

Are there specifically "Jewish" foods? Indeed so: matzoh dumplings or balls, gefilte milz, various kosher — religious changes of traditional Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Romanian, Hungarian and German fare may well be designated as "Jewish." However, Roast beef & Yorkshire pudding no more turns into a "Jewish" dish because British Jews eat it with the same gusto as do British Anglicans, than does couscous convert to Judaism from Islam, solely as a result of it being eaten by citizens of diverse religion origin in the Republic of Israel.

Professor Robinson states, that the Republic of Israel and its citizens are an "integral part of the Middle East." Geographically, the State of Israel obviously is such a part, but —unfortunately — is not perceived as such by most if not all of its Arab neighboring states and people. One would also have to seriously question the universal application of Professor Robinson's apodictic statement: a very significant number of Israeli citizens of European (especially West—European) antecedent quite certainly do *not* regard themselves as Middle Easterners.

Klaus J. Herrmann
Associate Prof., Political Science

Unpleasently surprised

to the editors

Having picked up a copy of *the Link* (The Issues Issue 2, March 29), I expected to find stimulating and entertaining subject matter worth reading. Unfortunately I was unpleasently surprised with some of the articles and the way they were treated. The advertising copy certainly left a lot to be desired. Since the purpose of a student newspaper is to reflect concerns and present divergent views, I fail to see where "Latin Foreskins," "In Defense of Cunts" and "Just a Little Rant" inspired discussion. In addition, I find the text in the ad paid for by the Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia is catering to the sensationalist element and was phrased in this manner for shock value. It is reminiscent of the young child using as many swear words and terms as possible in order to shock their parents. A more positive approach might have been to bring out certain injustices experienced by women in the workplace, sexual harrassment and related issues.

This is not to say that lesbians should not be able to express themselves in which ever way they choose, but at least attempt to be eloquent while doing it.

Serita Green

Come to the Link General Assembly

On Friday, April 8, at 3:00 the Link will hold its Annual General Assembly. At this meeting, the Link Publication Society Board of Directors will review the finances of the Link for the 1987-88 publishing year.

The Society is an autonomous student corporation. All Concordia students who pay the undergraduate student levy are shareholders in the society and are encouraged to attend.

Elections will be held at the meeting for the four (4) student members on next year's Board of Directors. All shareholders may be candidates for these positions.

Staff members of this year's Link will be in attendance to answer any questions that shareholders may have about the paper's content and practices.

All manner of refreshments will be served after the meeting.

Tomorrow, 3 pm —— Room H-649

Human Rights exhibit organizer "dictatorial"

to the editors

On Tuesday March 15, I passed by the Mezzanine and was assaulted by a placard declaring, "Israel Stop Murdering Unborn Palestinians." Needless to say this piqued my interest. I went over to the display, put on by the Palestinian Collective for Human Rights, was as I perceived to bring to the public eye the situation of the Palestinians in the West Bank.

As I looked around the display, it became apparent that the material was more anti-Israel than concerned with Human Rights. Many books professed subjects such as the relationship between Israel and South Africa and books equating Zionism with Racism as well as a horde of other blatently anti-Israel material. Two posters particularly caught my attention. Both showed modern day Israel with *Palestine* marked in bold letters above the maps. This seemed quite fascinating since the PLO have been saying that they want an independant state in the West Bank. It is quite clear from the display material that what they really mean is the West Bank as far as the Mediterranean Sea, in other words all of Israel.

While I was viewing all this material an event took place that simply left me horrified. Two students had entered the display with the intent of taking a few photos of the material. The students were stopped by one of the organizers of the display and told that they could not take any photographs. Who was this person to tell fellow Concordia students what they may or may not do. Concordia is not a Dictatorial state. The aforementioned organizer was soon put in his place as an administrator came by and allowed the students to take photographs of the displayed material.

While the students were photographing, under the watchful eye of the fuming organizer, he kept prompting them to photograph a UN resolution. I went to look at this resolution (3236) which was voted in by the UN General Assembly in the early 70s. The resolution called for the recognition of the Palestinians national rights. It came as no surprise that the only nations who voted in favour of this resolution were Dictatorial states such as: Iran, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Uganda (under Idi Amin), the Soviet Union and eighty other such states, while nations such as Canada, Denmark, the USA and rest of the free world abstained or voted against the resolution.

The question to ask is, what sort of state would a Palestinian State be under the leadership of the PLO (self-proclaimed leaders of the Palestinian). A state where a select few dictate what one may or may not do. A state supported by such upholders of Human Rights (Iraq, Iran, Libya, Soviet Union). A state that wants all of Israel, is this the sort of state that Israel is expected to trust?

Michael Whiteman

Palestinian Collective defends exhibit

to the editors

Re: Palestinian Exhibit Disrupted (*the Link*, March 18). On Tuesday, March 15th, a group of students disrupted a Palestinian human rights exhibit on the mezzanine of the Hall Building, by tearing down exhibited materials, verbally abusing the exhibit organizers, accusing them of racism and the dissemination of 'hate-breeding' literature, and demanding that the exhibit be closed down.

Reportedly, several protestors took exception to an illustration of the Star of David composed of skeletal bones, featured in an exhibition. Protestor Ruth Reis accused the Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights (CCPHR) of having "desecrated the Jewish Star of

continued on page 11

the Link

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Business Manager

The Link, a dynamic and progressive student newspaper, needs a new business manager. This person will manage receivables and payables, record financial activities and prepare regular cost breakdowns and budget reports.

The ideal candidate for this post will have a working knowledge of bookkeeping, financial management, and microcomputers. They will thrive on working in an eclectic and informal environment. Non-profit organization experience is an asset.

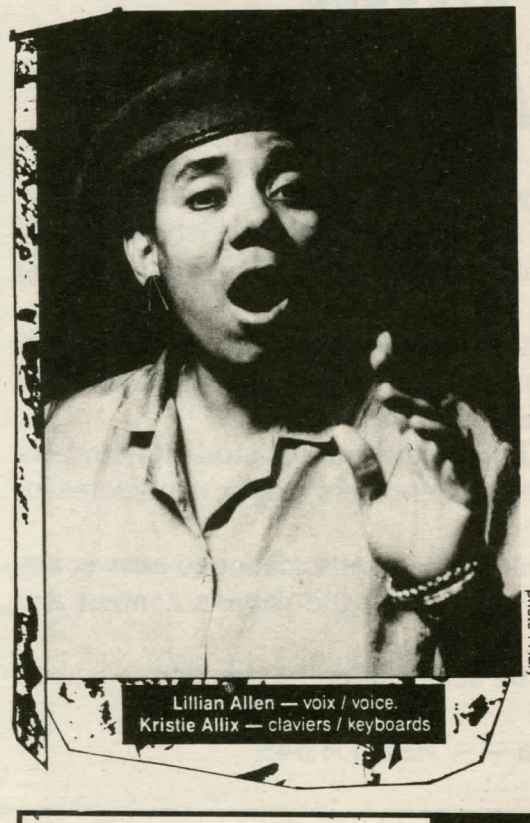
The full-time job begins at the end of April. Salary, depending on qualifications, is in the $12,000 - $16,000 range (over 11 months).

Resumes will be accepted until Wednesday, April 13, 1988 in *the Link* office: H-649, 1455 deMaisonneuve W.

The Link is an affirmative action employer.

One of a kind International Music Festival

Tuning into the mainstream



Lillian Allen — voix / voice.
Kristie Allix — claviers / keyboards

photo : Raty

by Elena Lonero

The Festival International de Musiciennes Innovatrices, an international gathering of some of the most outstanding female musicians of the 80s, is taking place in Montreal this week.

The festival, which is the first of its kind in Canada, started yesterday and will continue at several venues throughout the city until Sunday.

Innovative female musicians, who are unknown or ignored by most show organizers and marginalized within the music industry, are well represented in this week's festival. The organizers, Productions Super-Mémé, have invited 50 women from Europe, Asia and North America to perform. They believe these musicians should be appreciated outside of all-women events and they hope that the Quebec public will become more aware of their styles of music and will want to see them in future events.

Les Foufounes Electriques is hosting a series of double concerts for $12. Thursday and Friday, a Japanese improv rock duo, **The Honeymoons**, will play before **Double X Project** from West Germany who "perform a mutant music situated at the junction of rock, free jazz and Germanic classical lyricism."

On Saturday, Toronto's well-known **Lillian Allen** will perform her eloquent and political dub poetry. The second concert features **Fifth Column**, a unique and defiant 'garage rock' band also from Toronto. Finally, **The New York Scene** will perform for "a colossal closing night" on Sunday. This group is a collaboration of five performers from "the avant-garde of the avant-garde no-wave scene" in the Big Apple.

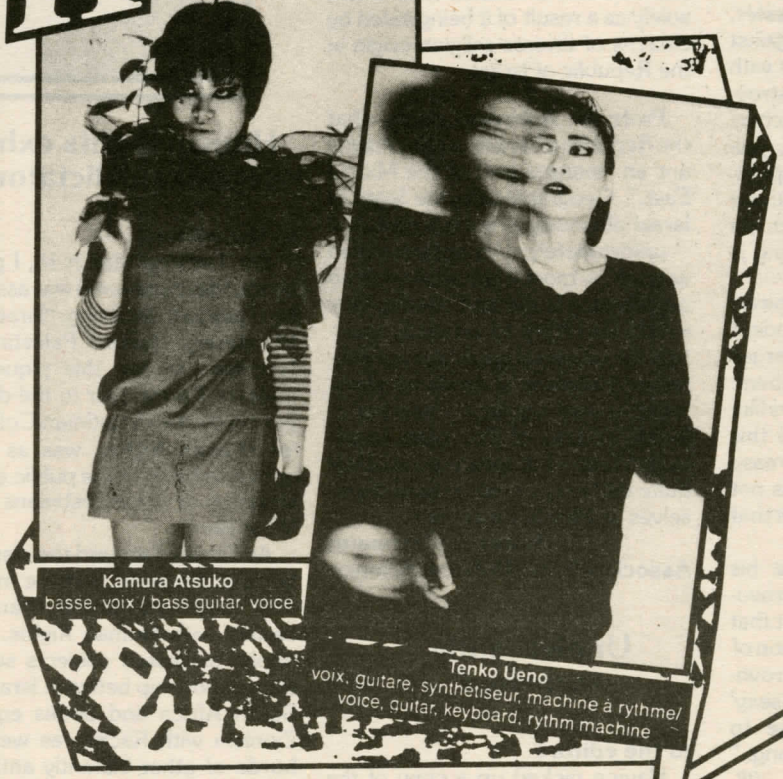
There will be two concerts at the Spectrum this weekend ($18 each). Chinese pianist Margaret Leng Tan will be followed by Sussan Deihim and Richard Horowitz on Friday night. The next night features one of the major events of the festival—the performance of Canaille, a European improvisational group. The pricy Spectrum concerts will be taped and broadcast at a later date on CBC's Musique Actuelle and Jazz sur le Vif radio programmes.

All these shows will start at 9:30 pm. Tickets are available from Ticketron outlets and at the venue of the show.

Today and tomorrow at noon, journalists, producers and the public are invited to meet some of the festival's performers at the Maison de la Culture du Plateau Mont-Royal, 465 est, Mont-Royal.

THE

HONEYMOONS



Kamura Atsuko
basse, voix / bass guitar, voice

Tenko Ueno
voix, guitare, synthétiseur, machine à rythme/
voice, guitar, keyboard, rythm machine

Kumiko Kimoto — percussions, cussions, dance. Ikue Mori — rie / drum. Luli Shiori — basse /

fRING

musée d'art contemporain

EXHIBITIONS

Ewen, Gagnon, Gaucher, Hurtubise, Mc Ewen: À propos d'une peinture des années soixante

Exhibition organized by the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal from its permanent collection

Until May 22

Miquel Barceló Recent Paintings

A selection of works executed between 1985 and 1987 by this Spanish artist

Until May 22

Ken Lum Recent Works

Works created by this Canadian artist especially for the Musée d'art contemporain de Montréal

Until May 22

VIDEO

Tribute to Robert Filliou

Presentation of the video "Teaching and Learning as Performing Arts, Part II" in tribute to artist Robert Filliou

Until May 8

SPECIAL EVENT

Lecture by Catherine Saouter

Semiologist and Professor at UQAM on **Ken Lum** and his work.

Sunday, April 10, 1988 at 2:00 p.m.

Admission free
Cité du Havre
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MUSÉE D'ART CONTEMPORAIN DE MONTRÉAL

CHEAP STUFF

CHE

Othered Visions Willie Birch and Marina Gutierrez present work located in art forms consciously outside the norms and tastes of the Euro-American "high art" schools which they see as fundamentally elitist, sexist and racist. Meet the artists at the opening on Wednesday at 8pm at Articule gallery, 4060 St.Laurent suite 106. The exhibition continues until April 24.

Femmes de parole et ecologie: 11 Quebec women artists use various mediums to explore art and human beings in relation to ecology and the environment—a recurring theme in modern works. Until April 10 at the Cote-des-Neiges House of Culture, 5290 Cote-des-Neiges Road.

MUSICIENNES INNOVATRICES, this year's international festival of women musicians will be holding two series of free concerts both starting on Tuesday, April 6th (well, at least you'll be able to catch the other shows) and finishing up Sunday, April 10. At Galerie Dare-Dare, 4060 St. Laurent (844-8327), the FREE shows put on by local musicians promise to be both dynamic and different. April 7, **Tetes de Vaches**, keyboards, percussions, voices and dance; April 8, **Nitro-**

Beer, God and R 'n' R

by Sonja Chichak

Even as he acknowledges living in a troubled world of suppression and financial devastation, *Jerry Jerry* can still make the folks merry merry.

His powerful performances mesmerise the audience. "Reverend Jerry" even leaps off stage to sing and dance his rhythm Rock 'n Roll with the crowd. The bleak world disappears while he is in your presence and his charisma haunts you afterwards.

Jerry Jerry And The Sons Of Rhythm Orchestra lived up to their reputation last Friday night—which, incidentally, was April Fools Day, Good Friday, Passover and full moon—by setting Les Foufounes Electriques ablaze with their energy.

Jerry Jerry's brand of music is self-flavoured and completely original.

"Rock 'n Roll's just the spirit, the enthusiasm that forces you to get up 'n dance, even if you're fifty years old!" Jerry explains with a menacing, Chesire Cat grin. He doesn't want his music categorized as Rock 'n Roll because he fears that "it will be misinterpreted by everyone. Don't strive too hard to label us because it's not worth the effort" he continues as he takes a sip of beer and lights a cigarette.

So, not taking advice from the horse's mouth, we continue to analyze the different sounds found on *Jerry Jerry and the Sons of Rhythm Orchestra*'s albums: *Road Gore: The Band That Drank Too Much* and *Battle Hymn Of The Apartment*. Asked about the names of his albums, he says "Road Gore...came from one trip to Saskatoon, that was an amazing experience. The second one just basically came from *Battle Hymn Of The Republic*."

The music isn't easy to label. Start off with some 40s or 50s gospel music, throw in a Rock 'n Roll beat, and add a twist of old country roots and a dash of Rockabilly—but don't get me wrong, this isn't the church choir—it's a modern upbeat definition of fun. Don't leave out the Rhythm 'n Blues that gives the melody the perfect amount of soul to make it believable. Stir in some occasionally humorous Rock'n Gospel drinking lyrics and you have the gist of *Jerry Jerry And The Sons Of Rhythm Orchestra*.

So how did this musical recipe originate?

"I wouldn't say religion played a big part in our music." says Jerry. "It's just that I'm a big fan of old gospel music. The spirit, the emotion, that sort of thing, it's probably my favorite kind of music, although I like a lot of kinds of music. My favourite groups are: *The Golden Gate Quartet*, *Pilgrim Travellers*, *Swan Silvertones*, vocal group from the 40s and 50s, most of them are pretty good!"

"After Dylan, right now I'd say, in terms of songwriting, Elvis Costello and Tom Waites are ,if not influences, at least the two people I respect most in the business today because they write complete songs and their songs have a purpose and an entity and they're well-written. Usually funny—well, sometimes funny—and when they're being ser ious, they're done exactly as they should be."

"Content is integral", explains Jerry. "For each album there's a message, for each song there's a message, for each show there's always a message. It's there if people want it - if they don't want it or don't see it, then that's fine." His first time playing live was at age sixteen for a band called *Cruz'r* in a friend's kitchen with an audience of a hundred people.

Composed of enigmatic Jerry Jerry, the lead singer with the Jim Morrison cum Iggy Pop voice and sex appeal; Blake Cheetah, the tall hairy wild thing on bass; powerful Aubrey Dayle on drums; stylish Rex and Rob Hotel, on rhythm and lead guitar respectively; and soulful Rockin' Rodney, last Friday's guest on harmonica.

The dark, smokey, cave-like Foufounes was packin in the people by the time *Jerry Jerry* came on stage. "This song is about a huge, big, gargantuan pink thing," said Jerry about the tune *Runaway Pig*. Another audience pleaser was *Houston Blues* during which Jerry danced Elvis-like into the drums.

The tight, well-synchronized show had the crowd rockin' respon sively throughout the entire set.

During newcomer Rob's guitar solo, Jerry dropped to his knees teasing the crowd—screeching praying n' preaching. In a strange twist, the band played *Led Zeppelin*'s tune *Rock n' Roll* loaded with a strong drum solo and unique charisma. "Jesus gonna make it all right," sang Jerry with a sinister glint in his eyes.

But the crowd favorite was *Pushin' Fo Jesus* which Jerry Jerry has made so famous that even commercial Canadian neo-pop bands like *Chalk Circle* do it live in concert with full credit to our favourite Reverend.

After the audience demanded an encore, Jerry sang acapella, "Well I'm a rollin' stone all alone..." The show's full-range set ended with a cover of the old TV series *Maude*'s teme song. "I don't much like the show, but it's a great tune" adds Jerry as he snuggles his pitcher of beer at the dressing room party after the show.

The band plans to be touring this summer, so you better catch 'em while they're still in town. They'll be playing the *Reare Garde* benefit on April 14 at Les Foufounes Electriques. And later this summer, their St-Jean Baptiste bash at Secrets will be one to remember. Check it out, you've got nothing to lose but musical narrow-mindedness and frustration.

EAP STUFF!!!

glycérine, guitar, drums, keyboards, bass, and voices; April 9, **Musique Urbaines**, keyboards, drumcomputer, and theatre; April 10, **Une plus l'une**, sax, flute trombone, voice and dance PLUS **Unnatural Acts**, sax, guitar, percussions and voices. All performances start at 8:30 pm. And at Maisons De La Culture, April 7, **Irène Schweizer** from Switzerland will be performing at 3755 Botrel, NDG; April 8, **Marie-Claude de Chevigny** from Quebec playing at 6052 Monk Blvd. ; April 9, **Joelle Léandre** from France will be doing her stuff at 6707 Delormier; and April 10 **Indiscrétion** from France will be entertaining us at 465 Mount Royal East. All shows start at 8:00 pm.

All shows are FREE, but you need advance passes which are available at the performance site, as well as at Productions Super-Mémé, 454 Marie-Anne East (842-7479). Also, call the previous number for more info!!

April 8, Black Rock Cafe, 5365 Lasalles Blvd., 768-9003. Three programs: Norman Nawrocki, member of **Rythm Activism**, reading poetry from Overdale Rag. Association of Producing Artists (APA) presenting excerpts from **Mistero Buffo** by Dario Rajski. Singers, songwriters, and guitarists Jeffry Barrett and Jon Rajski also.$2 contribution at the door goes to the Black Rock Community Center. On April 22 there will be more stuff and poetry reading (same place!!).

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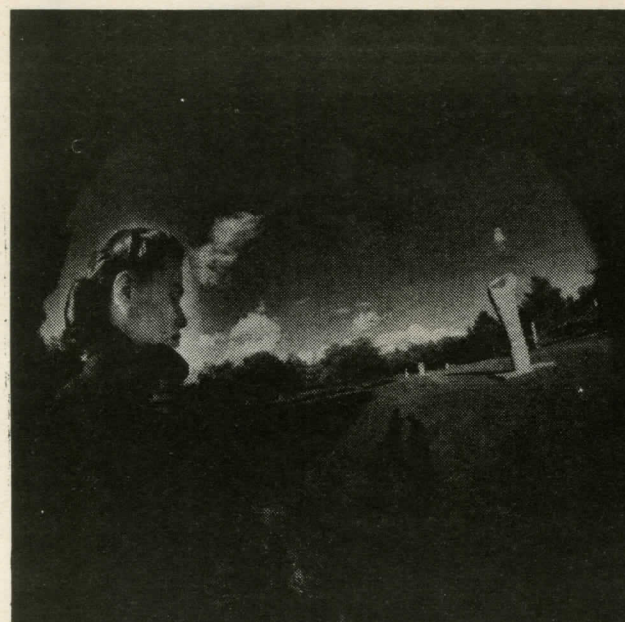

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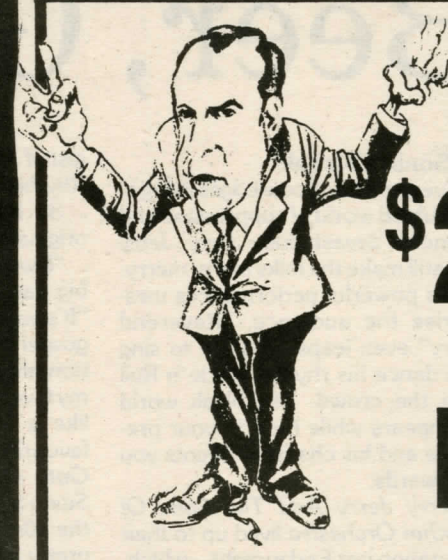

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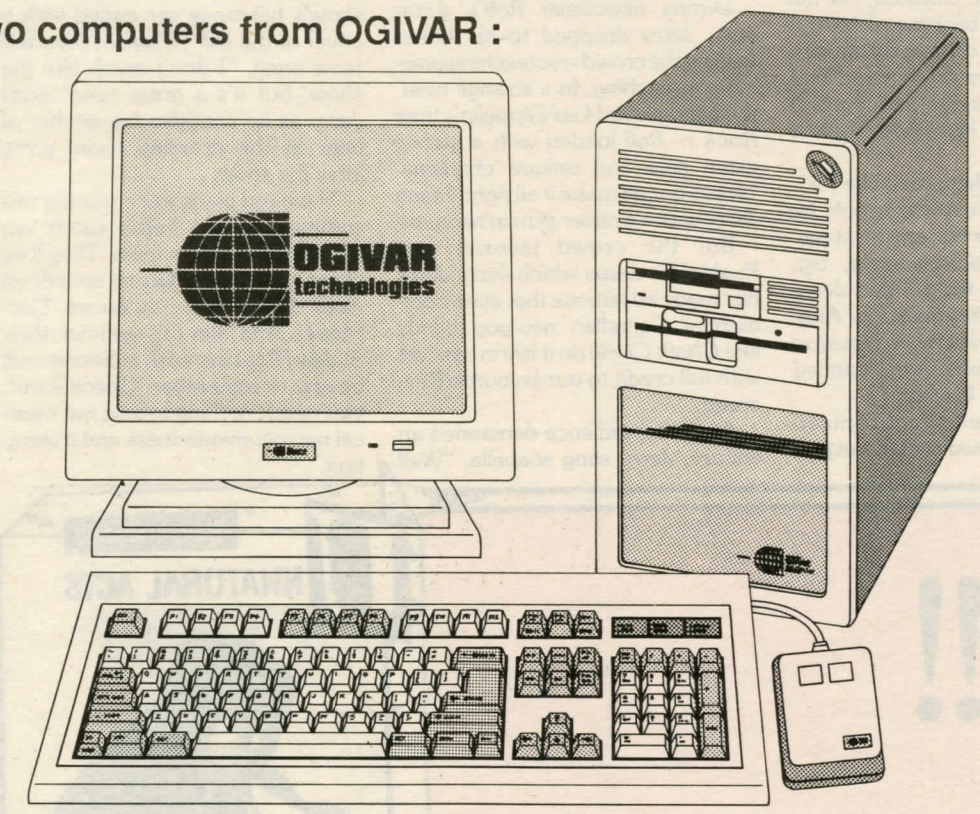

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CANDU gets mixed nuclear reactions

Selling food irradiation to the Third World

by Elizabeth Pasternak

Canadian environmentalists and public-interest groups are concerned that food irradiation may be a scam, designed to help the nuclear industry stay afloat in a time when it cannot sell any nuclear reactors.

Food irradiation is a preservation technique in which foods are exposed to gamma radiation. The radiation can kill some kinds of bacteria that live in foods and delay the ripening of certain foods. As well, food irradiation creates a longer shelf life for foods, enabling them to travel longer with less risk of spoilage.

Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL) has not received an order for a CANDU reactor since 1978. But AECL not only constructs nuclear reactors, it also builds food irradiation technology and has sales people all over the world trying to sell them to various nations, particularly those of the Third World.

"They tell these nations that food irradiation will somehow improve the problem of starvation in the Third World which is really a load of crap—it has nothing to do with starvation. What it has to do with is finding a spinoff for the nuclear industry to help AECL," says John Willis, Greenpeace campaign coordinator of the nuclear fuel cycle.

Food irradiation may be a federal government scam

The AECL is a crown corporation designed to make money. Yet more Canadian tax money is given to the AECL for research than all other forms of energy research combined.

Recently, the Canadian government has begun to tire of babysitting the AECL, say enviornmentalists. Knowing that it cannot survive without government funding, the AECL has launched into food irradiator production.

David Poch, lawyer for Energy Probe in Toronto and author of *Radiation Alert, A Consumer's Guide to Radiation Issues*, calls the motives behind food irradiation technology "illegal."

"There's no great push from consumers and retailers for food irradiators—the push is from AECL," he says. "It's AECL's proposal, design, resources. And they are building the units."

In Canada, irradiation of potatoes, onions and wheat are legal. But none of these products are being irradiated commercially because most food chains cannot afford this expensive process. The chains also fear a public boycott of irradiated foods.

The federal government is pushing hard to allow more food items to be irradiated because it will increase AECL's chances of sales in the Third World.

"The government needs the approval in Canada to market it in the Third World," says Irene Kock of the Nuclear Awareness Project, Oshawa. "It doesn't matter if we eat it here in Canada—just as long as we sell it in the Third World. The money to be made is in the Third World."

AECL has already begun food irradiation projects in the Third World with the help of the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). CIDA purchases food irradiators from AECL and sends them as aid to developing nations.

In effect, Ottawa still subsidizes the AECL. But the money comes from a different budget.

CIDA's latest food irradiator donations went to Thailand and Jamaica. CIDA is also carrying out feasibility studies in Egypt, the Ivory Coast, Chile and Haiti, and informal inquiries in connection with Sri Lanka, Brazil, China, Guatemala, Senegal and Cameroon.

"Technological colonialism is what I'd call it," says Linda Pim, consultant on food at Pollution Probe.

Poch calls selling food irradiators an abuse of the foreign aid program. "It's inappropriate technology," he says.

Food irradiation is a capital intensive, centralized industry. Each irradiator costs $3 million or more. In a developing country, only multinational agri-business can afford to use such a process.

"Food irradiation is going to put more land into export crops and Third World nations will have less food for consumption than they have now," says Kock.

Food irradiation requires centralization. All food has to be collected and brought to the plant. But in the Third World food production and consumption are highly decentralized.

"There's a high chance the food will be recontaminated...it's a waste of money."

"Centralizing the processing in the Third World is going to be next to impossible," says Adams.

Centralized processing and distribution require basic utilities such as roads and electricity—both of which are unreliable in the Third World.

"Food irradiation requires refrigeration and proper storage once the food is irradiated," says Adams. "From a technical point of view, there's a high chance the food will get recontaminated and it's therefore a waste of money."

Adams adds that expensive technology such as food irradiation is unnecessary for the Third World. "It's true that there is food loss by pests. But simpler solutions are known. For example, putting palates between bushels can save alot."

Not only is food irradiation inefficient, it may also be dangerous to ingest. Worldwide debates continue over the safety of irradiated foods, but neither side has produced conclusive evidence.

"We don't know if it's safe," says Pim. "We can't say it definitely causes cancer in humans. But there have been enough studies that raise red flags of warning. It's not, as the nuclear industry says, that there are no safety problems."

In 1973, the National Institute of Nutrition, in Hyderabad, India conducted the only peer-reviewed study monitoring the human consumption of irradiated food. S.G. Srikantia, former director of the Institute, testified at the United States Congressional hearings on food irradiation in June 1987.

Srikantia reported, "Undernourished children fed diets containing freshly irradi ated wheat showed elevated levels of poyploid cells in circulating white cells." Polyploid cells contain chromosome abnormalities.

"Several months after the irradiated wheat was withdrawn, levels of polyploid returned to normal.

"The meaning of increased numbers of polyploid cells is not clear, though it is often seen in association with rapidly regenerating tissues and with malignancy (cancer)," said Srikantia.

Adams and Pimm note that any detrimental effects will hit hardest in the Third World.

"In the Third World people don't have a varied diet," explains Adams. "So if you irradiate a staple product you magnify the chances of health efects."

"There's been quite a bit of evidence on loss of vitamins in irradiated foods," notes Pim , "especially vitamin B. This isn't serious in a varied diet," she adds, but it would further deprive the already undermet nutritional needs of Third World populations.

Food irradiators threaten the environment... they use large amounts of radioactive Cobalt 60

Food irradiators also threaten the environment because they use large amounts of radioactive cobalt 60.

Canada produces 90 per cent of the world's cobalt 60, which is a forced byproduct of the CANDU reactor. The sale of cobalt 60 would boost the AECL's radioisotope programme. But cobalt 60 is extremely toxic.

Adams believes that the dangers of radioactive contamination are more immediate in the Third World where protection regulations for workers and the public are poor.

In some Third World countries there are not institutions to regulate the use and disposal of radioactive materials.

Pim is cynical about AECL's role as a regulator. "AECL says they have records of their radioactive material, but there have been several accidents. One went so undetected that it was made into table legs which ended up in Winnipeg - that was AECL cobalt 60."

This incident began in Mexico where 450 curies of cobalt 60 inadvertently ended up in a scrap metal yard. Workers in the yard developed radiation sickness from the exposure. As well, the cobalt 60 contaminated all the metal in the yard, 5 000 tons of which was shipped across to North America. Some of the radioactive material ended up in Winnipeg where radioactive table legs were removed from a cafeteria.

Despite all these dangers, Ottawa continues to sell food irradiators

Despite all these potential dangers, the implementation irradiators in the Third World resides in the hands of the exporting and importing governments - not the general public.

In Thailand, the deal passed from the Canadian government through AECL and CIDA to the Office of Atomic Energy for Peace in Thailand. "There was no public consultation and the people weren't happy," explains Adams, who is in contact with public interest groups in Thailand.

"If there had been, the public reaction would have been the same as it is here," she says. "People are just as prudent there as here."

In Canada, irradiation plants are located in Whitby, Markham and Peterborough, Ontario, and in Laval and St. Hyacinth, Quebec. These plants currently irradiate medical supplies and animal feed. But public pressure has kept food irradiation at bay.

Last fall, A&P food chain decided to test market irradiated potatoes in the Hamilton/-Toronto region.

Before they conducted the test, the issue was discussed on a radio station in the United States. The large number of phone calls from concerned listeners protesting the marketing of irradiated food caused A&P to cancel the project. The AECL now has 10 000 bags of irradiated potatoes that cannot be test marketed.

In May 1987 the Standing Committee of Consumer and Corporate Affairs on the Question of Food Irradiation and the Labelling of Irradiated Foods published their final report after five months of public hearings.

The report underlined the need for more testing in food irradiation technology.

The committee recommended that food irradiation be restricted to those foods already approved "until an indepth scientific assessment of health implications and further toxicological studies indicate that no significant adverse health effects would be expected to be found by the ingestion of irradiated foods."

But in September 1987, Jake Epp, minister of Health and Welfare, issued a response opposing most of the commitee's recommendations. His report sided with the claim that the doses used for commercial foods are safe. It deemed additional testing on the safety of irradiated wheat and chicken unnecessary.

"I was completely outraged that the federal government responded this way. It (the Consumer and Corporate Affairs Standing Committee) was an all party committee - six Conservatives, 2 Liberals, 2 NDPs. And their decision was unanimous. What is the system for if they can roughshod over it?" said Pim.

The Canadian government and the pro-nuclear lobby are not concerned by the possibility that food irradiation may be unsafe. Nor are they considering whether it is necessary or appropriate either at home or in the Third World. They are thinking about making money.

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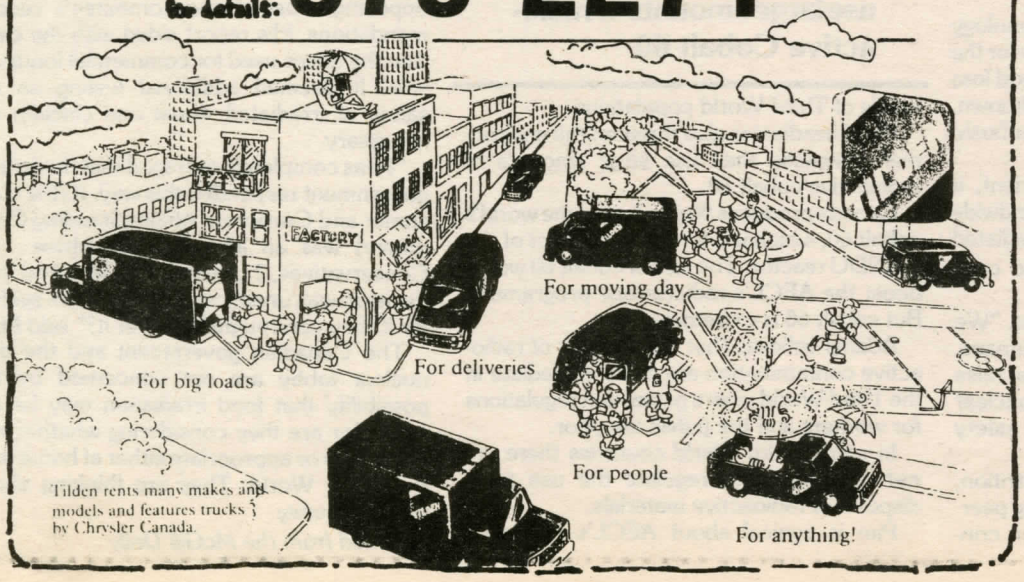

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Letters

continued from page 5

Palestinian Collective responds (cont'd)

David" by having "associated Israeli policies with Jewish actions." Miss Reis' confusion is surprising, since, of her own admission, the Star of David is a "symbol of both the Jews and Israel." Indeed, it has become a symbol of Israel. It can be found on the Israeli flag, on Israeli weapons, tanks and bombers, and on the uniforms of Israel's deadly police and military forces. So if Miss Reis feels that the Star of David has been desecrated by having been associated with Israeli policy, she must give credit where credit is due. It is zionism and its adherents that have degraded what was once a noble symbol of faith into a symbol of oppression, not the CCPHR.

Another protestor, Joel Smith, accused the CCPHR of "equating Jews with Nazis and South Africans." This is patently false. We have never, NEVER made any such pernicious parallels with respect to the Jewish people. Some of these people just happen to be our friends and supporters. Some of them are members of our collective. And some of them are active members of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Yes, that's the PLO. These people, which men of Joel Smith's ilk contemptuously refer to as 'self-hating' or 'anti-semitic' Jews, are decent, moral individuals who cannot placidly accept that the collective suffering of the Jewish people should be used as the rationale for the unconscionable horror the Israeli government has been inflicting on the Palestinian nation for well over 40 years. Our activism is directed not against Jews, but against the state of Israel and its apologists, of which Mr. Smith and Company are classic examples.

Mr. Smith contends that "they (the CCPHR) have a right to express their beliefs, but when they start presenting facts that aren't true (sic) this should not be allowed." We fail to see, since of course Mr. Smith has failed to indicate, which of the facts presented in our exhibit were not true. All the information contained in our display has been well documented and can be substantiated, which is more than can be said for Mr. Smith's accusations. The facts presented in our exhibits were just that — FACTS. And as Mr. Smith has so grudgingly conceded, we do have a right to express our beliefs, and we shall continue to do so, undeterred by those among you who feel you have a right to tear down exhibits that don't meet you approval. You don't. What you did was not only wrong, it was illegal. And if you haven't yet grasped the full implications of your actions, (as you are obviously incapable of distinguishing right from wrong), rest assured that the University's Code of Conduct Administrator will make it a point of explaining them to you in the near future.

Haytham Yahya
Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights

CARA responds

to the editors

Joe Rochford nominated me "for the award of best example for simplistic argumentation" for saying "If circus animals are so thrilled (to be in the circus), why are they in cages?" (*the Link*, Letters, March 22). In all fairness, I feel I must invite him to share the award, for his reduction of the whole of the animal rights argument against the use of animals in circuses to one statement made by one person at one time. Indeed, I quite agree that an animal "high-tailing it" out of his/her cage *may* not be enough evidence to determine his/her thoughts, feelings, or desires, or their extent or depth. I think, however, that one need not hold a degree in psychology to see that the animal who chooses to leave the cage (or the "owner's" home) is prevented from exercising his/her will while confined. As long as animals are "owned" by humans, we must weigh any restrictions imposed on them against the alternatives. Granted in this case it wouldn't do to let the animal roam free in an urban locale. It might do, though, not to take them from their natural environment in the first place, and consign them and their often overbred offspring to an environment where they *must* be caged, simply for the purpose of human amusement.

In any case, as simplified as it may be, this is only one of many reasons I have for objecting to the use of animals in circuses. Stereotypical behaviour, including pacing, head swaying, bar chewing — common in caged animals and observed in Shriners' animals — is considered by animal behaviourists to be manifestations of the stress and boredom of confinement. Evolved into creatures that would normally exercise mind and body in fulfilling their natural requirements, even housepets not afforded sufficient stimulation can display similar effects: nervous habits, hormonal imbalances, and hair-loss, for example, are linked to the lifestyles we impose on them.

If Mr. Rochford attended the International Conference on Bioethics and Applied Ethology last August in Montreal, he will have heard scientists from around the world discussing the psychological and physical illnesses brought upon animals by confinement. I am intrigued that someone in favour of serious study of animal behaviour can actually say, "Perhaps lions rationalize that jumping through hoops and standing on their back paws is a small price to pay for being releived of the burden of having to hunt for food." Even well-fed house cats will "hunt for food," suggesting it might not be such a burden after all.

Mr. Rochford also shows a very narrow vision in assuming that circus animals pay their dues for "fifteen minutes a day." Rather, they spend their lives travelling, and hence must be kept in cages small enough to be portable. Jumping hoops, standing upright human-style (chauvinism???), or on their heads, or riding bicycles are acts hardly natural to the animals, and the training methods used to make them submit to these acts are best learned from the writings of animal trainers themselves. Charlie Baumann (*Tiger Tiger*, 1975) describes beating the "treacherous" animals with sticks, whips, and forks to keep them in line. Pat Derby (*The Lady and her Tiger*, 1976) shows a sincere concern for performing animals, calling reward training "scientific semi-starvation." Of course, when the animals do appear in public, their training history is not seen, and only those purposely looking will notice the hooks used to prod sensitive body areas to keep the animals up to the mark. (Whose mark?) Still, compared to the boredom of being caged, and the pain of training, the performing moments may indeed be the most enjoyable for the animal.

I would like to point out to Mr. Rochford that approximately forty councils around Britain refuse to have animal circuses on their land, and that Sweden, Denmark, and most recently, Finland have banned circus animal acts except for a few domestic species, and even these are controlled. Establishment animal protection organizations, including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, condemn circus animal acts, and in 1981, the National Association of Head Teachers (Great Britain) recommended that children should be discouraged from attending any exhibitions or performances involving animals in undignified displays, housed in unsatisfactory quarters, or subjected to suspect training methods. Children stand to gain no awareness of circus animals' natural behaviour, only that humans can dominate and twist other species for so trivial a reason as "entertainment." Quebec's hugely successful Cirque de Soleil shows that the circus can go on without the use of animals.

The main thrust of Mr. Rochford's argument was that we cannot infer animal characteristics from those of humans. I assume then that he must agree with me that decades of often hellish experiments done on animals in the name of human psychology have been a waste of untold money, time, and animal lives. After all, if animals are not like us, we needn't experiment on them to learn about ourselves. On the other hand, if they *are* like us, then since we don't allow such studies to be carried out on unconsenting humans, we must surely not allow them on animals either. I wish we all would follow Mr. Rochford's advice that "the abuse of animal use for human benefit (sic) be addressed with the respect it deserves."

Sara Terreault
Concordia Animal Rights Association

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Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

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the Link

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